



# Vermont Business Leader Focus Group

## Are high schools truly preparing our students for the future?

We want to know what you think.

The New England Secondary School Consortium is looking for ten Vermont-based business leaders to participate in a conversation about public education, student preparation, and school improvement. Participants will be offered a \$50 stipend for two hours of engaged discussion.

Business leaders are critical voices that need to be heard. They hire, employ, or work alongside public-school graduates, and they have first-hand knowledge of the skills that today's students will need to succeed in 21<sup>st</sup> century industries and workplaces. During the sessions, participants will discuss the skills business leaders are seeing in young people today, the skills they would like to see, and their general perceptions of high schools and education today.

To ensure that diverse viewpoints are heard, we are looking to enlist a balance of business leaders representing different ages, genders, races, industries, and professional roles, and also different viewpoints on education, employability, student preparation, and today's workforce.

Sought-after participants include:

- Executives, directors, managers, and human-resources personnel from companies that employ 15 or more workers.
- Military recruiters and officers knowledgeable about modern military career paths
- Other business leaders in a position to speak knowledgeably about the needs and perspectives of Vermont's businesses and industries.

During the selection process, an emphasis will be placed on industries that employ a broad spectrum of individuals with varying skill sets and educational backgrounds, including fast-growing fields such as technology, biotechnology, engineering, energy, e-commerce, and medical sciences and services.

Do you fit the criteria? Interested in participating? Let us know!

## Vermont Focus Group Details

**Date:** Wednesday, May 23, 2012

**Location:** Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Size:** Ten participants, one moderator, and one observer

**Length:** Two hours

**Food:** Hors d'oeuvres and beverages beginning at 5:00 p.m.

## I Want My Voice Heard

If you have questions or are interested in participating in the focus groups for business leaders, please contact Gwen Merrick: 207-773-0505 or [gmerrick@greatschoolspartnership.org](mailto:gmerrick@greatschoolspartnership.org).

**For More Information**

[newenglandssc.org/focus\\_groups](http://newenglandssc.org/focus_groups)